

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT TOM HORNE CATCHES NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT ON MOVING THE MS. FOUNDATION “TAKE YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY”

PHOENIX -- Arizona School Superintendent Tom Horne tomorrow will appear on NBC's Today Show, Tuesday, April 26 at 7:41 a.m., Arizona time. Horne will be interviewed for taking on the Ms. Foundation's "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" last year during school testing week. Horne is leading the charge, nationwide, to encourage all states in urging the Ms. Foundation to change their event to a date that won't conflict with the school calendar. Currently, the "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" is slated for the fourth Thursday in April.

Last year, Horne argued that the day should be during summer vacation. He stated that "by refusing to move this day to summer vacation, the Ms. Foundation is promoting truancy. The most important quality for employees is conscientious performance of the duties at hand. For students, that is attendance at school, learning conscientiously, and doing one's homework. By persuading students to neglect their duties, the Ms. Foundation is encouraging precisely the opposite of what employers want from employees."

Horne stated that, attendance of students at school is particularly important in this age of academic accountability, and high stakes testing. In Massachusetts, 90% of the students passed the high stakes test, and 10% failed, resulting in the denial to them of high school diplomas. When they looked closely at the 10% who had failed, almost all of them had bad attendance records. If parents don't send their children to school, we can't teach them. If the students have good attendance they should be able to pass the AIMS test because the teachers are teaching the standards on which the AIMS test is based. Attendance is key."

WHO: SUP. TOM HORNE ON NBC TODAY SHOW

WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2005

TIME: 7:41 A.M.

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